When to Look

Many housing properties in the Iowa City area begin the lease signing process as early as January for the next school year. Do not get caught up in the “sign up now” advertising frenzy. A wide variety of very good housing options are available well into spring and early summer. Most area apartments and houses rent for 12 months with leases beginning August 1. Short-term leases and no lease situations are available but are not common.

Fall Semester
Fall vacancies begin advertising in January with the greatest selection during the months of January through May. Fall housing is still available in June and July but choices become limited as August approaches.

Spring Semester
Advertising for spring semester housing begins in November. Many of these listings are subleases offered by December graduates.

Summer Rentals
Subleases for summer are advertised as early as March. Summer sublets often offer reduced rental rates and flexible lease periods.

Note: Be sure you understand the terms of any sublease agreement. Some summer subleases offer a fall lease option, some do not. Fall lease options may have a higher monthly rental rate than the summer rate.